

Steps to be taken by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management (DGACM) to mitigate the current UN budget funding crisis

Presentation to Security Council Political Coordinators by Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General/ DGACM on 8 October 2019

The Context:

As a result of delays in payment of assessed contributions, DGACM is currently working on the basis of available cash, not on the basis of the approved budget, which might not be currently funded due to cash shortfalls. DGACM has had to cancel contracts for interpreters and will not be able to use temporary assistance. As a result, the following measures would have to be taken, starting on Monday, 14 October 2019, to be in effect until further notice.

A. Interpretation:

DGACM will be limiting its provision of interpretation services to the Security Council to two meetings per day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. These time slots would be strictly observed. As a direct consequence for the Council's programme of work, the monthly open debate, for example, will have to suspend at 1 p.m. and resume at 3 p.m. There will be no continuation of services over lunch time. Furthermore, there would be no accommodation of parallel meetings and it will be up to the Council itself to decide the allocation of conference services in case of competing demands, including for Arria formula meetings.

However, the USG affirmed that the Secretariat will do anything feasible to ensure the seamless provision of services in case of any emergency meetings of the Security Council.

B. Documentation:

The Council's provisional verbatim records will no longer be made available within the 24 hours stipulated in its provisional rules of procedure and Member States should anticipate significant delays in the issuance of their communications as official documents.

As regards the turnaround of draft resolutions, there would be no overnight processing. The required submission deadline for a draft resolution would be at least 48 hours before the time of action. DGACM will suspend pink ticket processing; i.e. resolutions could not be put into blue for action the next day, unless the length was very short (1 page).

DGACM would also not be able to accommodate last minute changes to submitted drafts. Members were requested to bear that in mind in planning for the adoption of outcome documents, particularly in the case of those concerning expiring mandates.

The established word limit of 8,500 words for Secretary-General reports and reports by Security Council Expert Panels would be strictly adhered to. No waivers would be granted.

The *Journal of the United Nations* would be available in its digital version only, and there would be neither PDF format nor hard copies available. Should the President of the Security Council decide on any changes to the programme of work for the following day after 6 p.m., these would not be reflected in the Journal.

C. Reduced Room Servicing:

Provision of individual water pitchers for each Council member would be curtailed, and possibly be limited to the President of the Council.

D. Security Council missions:

While the question of continued funding for Security Council missions is not a matter that fell to DGACM, UN interpreters would continue to be provided to relevant SC missions. However, it was underlined that the interpreters' absence would have an impact on the meetings which continued at UNHQ while the Council was traveling.

Measures to be taken by other Departments:

There would also be measures taken by other departments. For example, DSS would limit the number of entrances/exits that are open after 6 PM, and events held at UNHQ after 6 PM would be curtailed. Media/broadcast services would only be provided during meeting hours i.e. 10 AM to 1 PM and 3 PM to 6 PM. Further information would be provided in an Information Circular in due course, and similar meetings with other offices would be arranged for the Political Coordinators as necessary.